

September 13, 2022

**Empire Township Board
Regular Meeting**

Supervisor Carl Noonan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Hall. Present were members Deegan, Casey Noonan, Price, and Neiswonger. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2022 regular meeting as written. All ayes.

Campground Report: After another successful year at the campground, motion was made by Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to give the following employee bonuses: Manager - \$2100; Maintenance Manager - \$1000; and Assistant Maintenance - \$300. All ayes.

Planning & Zoning Report: 1.) Zoning Administrator, Tim Cypher, issued the following permits/approvals in August: 1) New dwelling-W. View Ridge 2) New dwelling-S. Leelanau Hwy 3) New dwelling-S. Golden Valley 4) Accessory building-S. Bow Rd. 2.) Trustee Micah Deegan reported that the Glen Lake Manor held a preliminary meeting with Planning and a public hearing will be set soon for the Manor's site plan review.

Supervisor Report: 1.) Bill Witler and Elise Crafts of the Sleeping Bear Gateways Council were present to discuss the possible transfer of 40 acres, Parcel #45-005-028-004-00, that is currently owned by the NPS to Empire Township. The property, located along Benzonia Trail, is classified as non-strategic and surplus, and is not included in the General Management Plan for the National Lakeshore. Discussion was that the NPS was supportive of the transfer and perhaps public safety facilities, workforce housing, and placemaking elements could be placed on the parcel. Bill and Elise explained that a possible opportunity to do this may develop through proposed legislation in the US House of Representatives (The LODGE Act), but also noted that letters could be sent to the township's federal senator and representative for other possible ways to secure the property. After further discussion, including possible MDOT solutions to the M72 intersection, it was determined to pursue the opportunity by contacting Senator Stabenow and Representative Bergman regarding the transfer. Motion-Deegan; support-Neiswonger to work with the Sleeping Bear Gateways Council to facilitate talks with Empire Township's elected federal officials to pursue the possible transfer of parcel # 45-005-028-004-00 from the NPS to Empire Township. All ayes. Bill and Elise were thanked for attending the meeting.

Clerk Report: 1.) Board reviewed Form L-4029, the 2022 Tax Rate Request from County Equalization. The form allowed 0.4248 to be levied for general operating costs and allowed up to 6.7615 to be levied for fire department operations. After discussion and review of money that would be needed to fund next year's Fire Department contract costs, a motion was made by Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to levy 0.4248 for general operations and levy 4.7000 for fire department operations. All ayes. 2.) Clerk relayed that the current \$100 Election Day Food allowance was inadequate to feed the inspectors a meal. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to increase the Election Day Food Policy to \$300/day. All ayes. 3.) Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to pay the September 2022 monthly bills as presented and attached. All ayes.

Final Business: 1.) Fire Chief Ferguson noted that he would be attending a pre-construction meeting on the new engine.

All business being concluded the meeting was adjourned by the Supervisor at 8:29 p.m.

Christine M. Neiswonger, Clerk